

the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs; Charles Puls, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, on behalf of the National Student Employment Association; and Jane C. Sangeloty, University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee will meet again on Wednesday, April 30.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 1406–1427; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 65 and H. Res. 124, were introduced. Pages H1793–94

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

Filed on April 22, 1997, H.R. 1278, to authorize appropriations for the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, amended (H. Rept. 105–66 Part I);

Filed on April 22, 1997, H.R. 1277, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 1999 for the civilian research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities of the Department of Energy (H. Rept. 105–67 Part I);

H.R. 449, to provide for the orderly disposal of certain Federal lands in Clark County, Nevada, and to provide for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in the State of Nevada, amended (H. Rept. 105–68);

H. Con. Res. 8, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems, amended (H. Rept. 105–69);

H. Res. 125 providing for consideration of H.R. 1271, to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2000 (H. Rept. 105–70);

H. Res. 126 providing for consideration of H.R. 1273, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the National Science Foundation (H. Rept. 105–71);

H. Res. 127 providing for consideration of H.R. 1274, to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 (H. Rept. 105–72); and

H. Res. 128 providing for consideration of H.R. 1275, to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 (H. Res. 105–73). Page H1793

Suspension of the Rules: The House agreed to H. Res. 117, the rule providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. Page H1719

Order of Business: Pursuant to H. Res. 117, Representative Hastings of Washington announced the following measures to be considered under suspension of the rules: H. Con. Res. 8, H.R. 39, H.R. 449, H.R. 688, and H.R. 1272. Page H1719

21st Century Patent System Improvement: The House passed H.R. 400, to amend title 35, United States Code with respect to patents. Pages H1719–42

Agreed to the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as modified and amended. Page H1742

Agreed to:

The Kaptur amendment that exempts small business, independent investors, and universities from publication of patent application information until the patent is granted. Specifies that patent information can be published before the patent is granted if the data has been made public in foreign countries, the application has been filed with the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) for five years or longer and the PTO determines that the public interest would be served by publication, or the inventor deliberately delays publication of the patent (agreed to by recorded vote of 220 ayes to 193 noes, Roll No. 88); Pages H1731–37, H1740–41

Rejected:

The Campbell amendment that sought to limit the defense to patent infringement based on prior domestic use, to the actual quantity, volume, or scope of the prior use (rejected by a recorded vote of 185 ayes to 224 noes, Roll No. 86); Pages H1719–23, H1739–40

The Campbell amendment that sought to limit the publication of all patent applications until there have been two Substantive Patent Office actions since the filing and defined Substantive Patent Office action (rejected by a recorded vote of 167 ayes to 242 noes, Roll No. 87); and Pages H1723–31, H1740

The Hunter amendment that sought to require that all patent examination and search duties shall

be performed within the United States by U.S. citizens who are employees of the U.S. Government; require patent examiners to spend five percent of their duty time per annum in examiner training, establishes an incentive program to retain examiners, and exempts PTO from administrative or statutory limits on full-time employee positions or personnel (rejected by a recorded vote of 133 ayes to 280 noes, Roll No. 89).

Pages H1737–38, H1741–42

The Clerk was authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending H.R. 400.

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H. Res. 116, the rule that provided for the consideration of the bill was agreed to on April 17.

Suspensions: The House voted to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Coral Reef Ecosystems: H. Con. Res. 8, amended, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems. Agreed to amend the title;

Pages H1742–44

African Elephant Conservation: H.R. 39, to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act;

Pages H1744–46

Southern Nevada Public Land: H.R. 449, amended, to provide for the orderly disposal of certain Federal lands in Clark County, Nevada, and to provide for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in the State of Nevada;

Pages H1746–50

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund: H.R. 688, amended, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require at least 85 percent of funds appropriated to the Environmental Protection Agency from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund to be distributed to States for cooperative agreements for undertaking corrective action and for enforcement of subtitle I of such Act; and

Pages H1750–53

Fire Administration Authorization: H.R. 1272, amended, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the United States Fire Administration;

Pages H1753–57

Bipartisan Task Force on Reform of the Ethics Process: Agreed by unanimous consent that the order of the House of February 12, 1997 be extended through May 7, 1997 with the following modification: After “Minority Leader”: insert “, or a member designated from the floor by the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader at the time of notice pursuant to clause 2(A)(1) of Rule IX,”

The order of the House on February 12, in furtherance of the understanding concerning the estab-

lishment of the ethics task force, made in order during the period beginning immediately and ending on April 11, 1997: (1) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct may not receive, renew, initiate, or investigate a complaint against the official conduct of a member, officer, or employee of the House; (2) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct may issue advisory opinions and perform other non-investigative functions; and (3) a resolution addressing the official conduct of a member, officer, or employee of the House that is proposed to be offered from the floor by a member other than the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader as a question of the privileges of the House shall once noticed pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of Rule IX, have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn only at a time or place designated by the chair in the legislative schedule within two legislative days after April 11, 1997.

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Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H1795–96.

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1717.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1739–40, H1740, H1740–41, and H1741–42. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 2:00 p.m. and adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AIR QUALITY ISSUES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Forestry, Resource Conservation, and Research held a hearing on air quality issues relating to the agricultural industry. Testimony was heard from Paul Johnson, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA; and public witnesses.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VA-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.